

# CURRICULUM COUNCIL

March 24, 2011

Minutes



- ☐ Welcome
- ☐ Continuing Our Focus
  - Continued support of writer's workshop K - 8
  - Continued support of SAS & curriculum development in the Toolbox
  - Integration of literacy strategies across content areas
- ☐ **Literacy Moment - Vocabulary Activity:** *(ABC grid posted on the wiki) Council members engaged in a literacy activity which asked them to fill in the ABC grid with words they thought of around the "vocabulary" words Sibling Rivalry. This activity can be used with any content area to engage students in vocabulary development.*
- ☐ **Group discussion of April & June professional development activities:** *(See Draft schedule) Council members and/or previously trained Reading Apprenticeship teachers will share strategies with teachers on April 8th. High school and West Snyder Middle School teachers will be asked to bring a lesson to use in order to plan for the integration of RA strategies. Middleburg Middle School teachers will be leaving for the afternoon in exchange for their attendance the afternoon of June 10<sup>th</sup>. Elementary will continue with writer's workshop.*
- ☐ **Summer Institute Topics:** *(See Hot Topic list posted on the wiki) Summer institute schedule will be coming out in the near future. The timing of sessions was discussed. It was mentioned that July might be a good time for the majority of the sessions to occur. Topics on the general list were highlighted as those people thought were most important.*
- ☐ **Discussion of 2011/2012 Professional Development Thoughts:** *We will continue our efforts of integrating literacy strategies into all content areas at the secondary level. The elementary level will continue to focus on writer's workshop. At the secondary level we need to be thinking about specific strategies on which to focus. These strategies should be the things we hold ourselves accountable for integrating. More discussion in April. Bring your ideas and suggestions.*
- ☐ **Focus Response:** *Council members listened to Daphne read a brief introduction of Mike Schmoker's new Focus book, which talked about focusing our efforts (see scanned Focus document on wiki). Written responses were collected. I will be responding to each person individually, and perhaps asking additional follow-up questions. Feel free to respond to the reading if you were unable to attend the meeting.*
- ☐ **Comments from the Group:** *There was discussion regarding the amount of testing our students are expected to do throughout the year. Some people commented that 4Sight testing does not seem to be on target with where students are at this point in the year; others commented that scores do seem to be in line where students are at this point in the year. Some commented that 4Sight testing is helpful for targeting specific areas of weakness. Some suggested that a reduction in number of times tested throughout the year should be considered. Others suggested we eliminate 4Sight altogether. One person wondered at what point we would put our foot down and say enough is enough. This comment was in response to expectations of Keystone exams and Algebra requirements. If you would like additional thoughts added to the meeting minutes, please let me know.*
- ☐ Next Meeting: **April 28,**

*"When the number of initiatives increases, while time, resources and emotional energy are constant, then each new initiative...will receive fewer minutes, dollars and ounces of emotional energy than its predecessors."*

Doug Reeves - Foreword from Mike Schmoker's *Focus* Book (2011)